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Newsletter

Number 18

24 June 2011



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

- .. to those parents who have already returned interview appointment forms.
- .. to those parents who helped out with last week's Year 4 to 6 Winter Sports Tournament.
- .. to those parents helping out with school lunches.

People of the week

- .. Jamahl, Hayden, Brady, Scott and James for selection for the 2011 Whangarei Grizzlies Squad.
- .. those science fair / action research participants who continue to meet deadlines and manage their time to good effect.
- .. our International Schools English and Maths participants for a sterling start to their test preparation - and especially Kayla who is motoring through her practice papers - and Oliver who has made a very substantial improvement in his test scores after just three practice papers.
- .. our middle school whose behaviour and sportsmanship at last week's Winter Sports Tournament was, apparently, exemplary.
- .. those children who have taken up the research challenge at the end of the newsletter and won points for their house.
- .. Maycee for receiving "Player of the Day" for Matarau Misfits last Saturday.
- .. Gabby for receiving "Player of the Day" for Matarau Intermediate team two weeks ago.
- .. Ellie for winning 3 1st placings and 2 2nd placings on her pony at last Sunday's ribbon day.

Please let the office know of any special achievements so that we can celebrate these together. Also we are keen to hear of shining examples of the kindness virtue .. so .. please keep us informed.

CURRENT VIRTUE .. KINDNESS

- Support material for the KINDNESS virtue was sent out a couple of newsletters back. If you have not already done so please remember to ..
- .. take the time to discuss the attached material with your child(ren) at home.
 - .. discuss times when you have / do apply this virtue in your own lives.
 - .. seek out some opportunities for application over the next few weeks.
 - .. advise us of your successes so that we can share these with others.

Mid Year Ballot for Out of Zone Students

Even though all available 2011 out of zone places have been filled, there remains some interest from out of zone families wishing to enrol their children at Matarau School. As spaces have / will appear as a result of families moving away from this district, we are seriously considering running a mid-year ballot. If you know of any families who are interested in applying for an out of zone place in 2011 **please ask them to contact Kevin early next week.**

Forthcoming dates to note

- .. 1 July Middle School Ripa Rugby Tournament
- .. 5 July Choir to Hurupaki School
- .. 11 July School Science fair

Assisting with Fund-Raising Events

From time to time it is worth sharing why we even do fund-raising. Surely schools should be focussed on learning. Fund-raising, if it happens at all, should be about funding only those special "extra" things .. not core business.

In a nutshell the reasons we fund raise are simple and twofold ..

1. We desire that our students should have an education and resourcing at least as good as (or as close as we can get to) that available elsewhere. We know that our parents desire the same.
2. The second reason follows from the first. This costs money and our operational funding, as a high decile school, is **less than half** of what we would receive if we were a low decile school. Although this differential is substantial and unjustifiable it is simply the way things are. We either cut back on what we offer, or we all put shoulder to the wheel to try to close the funding shortfall. We know from parent feedback that the latter option is the one most parents wish us to pursue.

So .. how can parents help?

The board has appointed Sharon Smith this year to co-ordinate fund-raising efforts. Her brief is to ensure that she holds our fund-raising income at historic levels and that (where possible) parents are approached only once a year to support with one event of their choice. Earlier feedback from our PTA was that we should try, out of fairness, **to spread the fund-raising load across as many parents as possible**. It is a common complaint of parents who "get involved" in promoting the "wider good" that they seem to be asked to do everything - we do not want that to be said by our parents.

So .. if phoned and you are unavailable for the job you initially volunteered for we understand .. **no problem** .. **but please indicate where else you could help**. Even a small contribution shares the load. Staff do their bit too, helping where they can for no extra remuneration. Know that every offer is appreciated. Sharon is highly supportive, fair and flexible and so please give her a call with suggestions or if you would like to further discuss your involvement.

The board will continue to ensure that funds are spent wisely and will petition the Ministry repeatedly for a review to the current decile funding formula (we can be pretty persistent). Thank you to those awesome parents whose "shoulders are already well and truly to the wheel". Your efforts are much appreciated.

After School Reading Labs

Please note that After School Reading Labs will not operate in the final week of term due to parent / teacher interviews and a generally pretty busy week. As a number of parents have expressed interest in the progress of their children in these labs Kevin will make himself available during parent / teacher interviews on 11 and 12 July to share results, discuss specific needs and answer any questions. Interested parents are invited to drop by to Kevin's office on their way to and from interviews.

Miss Hewitt

Parents of children in Miss Hewitt's class are advised that Miss Hewitt will be on leave for the period 27 June to 5 July. Mrs Beazley will teach in this room during this period. Mrs Beazley has taught in this room before, knows how this room operates and is well geared up to minimise any disruption arising from this change.

Client satisfaction surveys

We will shortly be surveying randomly selected parents for feedback on various elements of service delivery at Matarau School. If you are selected please take the 10 minutes or so to give us some feedback. More to follow.

Dental Caravan

Remember that messages for the diagnostic clinic can be left at the school office. Where a message is left, your child should be seen within a week. For more urgent cases please phone the Whangarei Hospital on 4700012.

20 Hour Famine

Sponsorship money and sponsor booklets were due at school today (24 June). If your child has NOT returned their money and or booklet please get this to school on Monday. Please note that, if your child registered for the programme and received a booklet this booklet **MUST** be returned whether or not they took part in the Famine.

Middle School Rippa Rugby Tournament Number 2

A reminder that this is scheduled for 1 July to be held at the Tikipunga Sports Ground (pp 15/7). Children will leave by bus shortly after 9:00 AM returning by 3:00 PM. Please ensure children bring lunch, drink and some warm clothing on the day. Thank you to those who have offered to assist with supervision. Parents are welcome to drop by to support our teams. Any questions in the run up to this event to Miss Bevin please.

Headlice - notice of re-infestation

In spite of efforts earlier this term it does appear that headlice have reappeared with a bit of a vengeance. Whole school inspections take place only once a term and so we appeal to all parents please to ..

.. **check their children's hair this weekend.**

.. where there is evidence of reinfestation **please treat your child before their return to school on Monday.**

.. **please continue to check their hair weekly.**

We understand that a number of good treatments are available from the chemist and not all of these contain the conventional insecticide. Available at Kamo Unichem Pharmacy is an all natural product called "Moov" at a discounted price of \$24.99 (normal rrp \$29.99).

Portfolios

.. containing some new National Standards information will be issued next Friday .. watch this space.

Lost

If anyone has seen/picked up a Whangarei Library Book entitled "The Solar System", dropped outside the School Hall, could you please return it to the School Office.

Phone System

Please be patient when phoning the school as we only have two telephone lines. If someone is already leaving a message you will go in a loop. Perhaps hang up and try again later. Email is a good option for non-urgent messages (e.g. absences or teacher messages).

Visit by K.H.S. Senior Managers

As mentioned in earlier newsletters senior managers from Kamo High School will visit Matarau School on the evening of 28 June. This meeting will take place in the staffroom starting 7:30 PM and is an opportunity to hear about some of the things on offer at K.H.S. and to ask questions. Year 8 children and their parents are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to consider the K.H.S. option in a small group setting. May also be of interest to parents of Year 7 children. **PLEASE GIVE OUR OFFICE A CALL ON MONDAY MORNING IF YOU WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING (OR PERHAPS LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE SCHOOL ANSWER PHONE OVER THE WEEKEND).**

Early closure

.. remember that school finishes at 2:30 PM on 11 and 12 July to provide a brief break before parent / teacher interviews. Please note that buses will run approximately 30-45 minutes early on these days. Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do so at this earlier time please.

Mid year Interviews

Interview appointment forms were sent home this week. Times will be allocated on a first in basis. If you did not receive a form please contact the school office. If these days do not suit, teachers are available in the new term by appointment.

Science FAIR - Senior School

Remember to check your child's homework book from time to time to see if extra support is needed.

Completion date is Wed 6 July. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns or if your child seems to have "stalled".

School Science Fair

.. will be open for viewing in the school hall 11 to 13 July. We encourage families to drop by on their way to or from mid year interviews to take a look at exhibits and perhaps participate in some activities. Prize Giving will take place at 7:00 PM in the hall (children receiving awards will be advised beforehand).

This year's science fair is sponsored by OMAK MEATS.

Innovations Art Display

Room 9 Innovations class will have their art work on display in the Library during Week 11. We encourage all families to drop by and look at this awesome art work.

Preparation for the International Schools Maths and English Exams

.. should now be well under way. Please assist by ensuring that at least one practice paper is completed each week. We suggest you keep a record of scores so you can monitor progress.

International Schools Competition - a useful tip!

After your child has marked their English paper see if any incorrect responses cluster around a certain activity (or type of activity). Ask them to do these questions again. Observe their method of approach to identify what they might be doing incorrectly and make this an area for special assistance. Sometimes children repeat the same errors test after test. Direct instruction targeted at these errors can often yield a much improved score - and quite quickly. The same principle applies in the maths test. Sounds old fashioned but, asking them to repeat the same (or similar) questions a number of times until they get them right, can be a useful strategy. Good luck! (let Kevin know if these areas of difficulty persist and we will see what we can do).

Cross Country - The School event has been set for Monday 22 August (pp 23 August). Te Horo Taniwha Challenge is set for 18 August. For those who qualify for Barge Park Interschool event, this will be held Friday 2 September.

Kiwikick - Registration forms for the Monday After School sessions due in to the office by Friday 24th June.

Lost Property - There is a mountain of lost property. This will be laid out early next week so please drop by to check if you are missing anything. Items remaining on the final day of school will be donated to charities.

Scholastic Book Club - Orders are now closed.

School Holiday Programme

School holidays are fast approaching and if you are wondering what to do with the kids over the break why not book them into SKIDS holiday care programme. We are planning for lots of fun days filled with games, prizes, cooking, face painting, wheelie days, crazy hair days etc. Come and see Kylie or Hannah to discuss your child's care further. We look forward to meeting with you. Thanks Kylie and Hannah.

Situations Vacant

Programme Manager required for SKIDS Matarau After School and Holiday Programmes, daily after school 2.30 - 6.00, Holidays 8.00am-6.00pm, please contact Caylee Grant - SKIDS Programme Co-ordinator, 09 5766602, 021 2877170, caylee@skids.co.nz



Community Notices

Work Wanted - Phone Tony on 4335565. Anything considered.

For Rent - 2 bedrm cottage and sleepout in Ruatangata. New kitchen, recently decorated. \$220pw inc power and lawns. Ph Jenny 4355336 or (027)3258617.

For Sale - Bookcase/mirror/noticeboard in primary colours on rotating swivel. Great for small spaces and multi-functional. In very good condition, \$125. Ph Michele 4335 735 to view.

Moving Sale - Queen & 2 single beds, 3+1+1 lounge suite, coffee table, electrical appliances, kitchenware, 40" TV and more. Phone Kelly 4351230.

Bantam Polish Runners - All roosters beautiful colours, free to a good home. Ph 435 0230.

Cute Puppies - Foxy Jack Russell X lab, 6 weeks old (already weaned) \$40 each. Ph Sarah 4335909 or 02102747487.

Pakotai Community Fundraiser - Tour of Kauri Gum Museum, Sat 9 July, Viewing by invitation only. For more info contact Sally on 4331594 or Pakotai School on 4331727 or email office@pakotai.school.nz. All proceeds to Pakotai School Camp.

Kids Duathlon - Saturday 16 July, the first Grid Kids Duathlon to be held alongside the International Rally of Whangarei, Pohe Island. Enjoy a fun day out. For more information visit www.rallywhangarei.co.nz and www.gridkids.co.nz

Babysitter Available - Former Matarau student, Holly Duckmanton, now aged 16yrs, is available for casual babysitting jobs. Refer to Mr T, Scotty Delemare, Mrs Bruce or Rachel Burgin, at school, for character references!! Has own drivers licence and vehicle. For enquiries phone Holly 4335 735 or 021 048 1645 after hours.

RockStar Holiday Half day activity - An exciting and rewarding activity packaged for the school holidays Location: Tutukaka. This activity is based around 4 hours of recording session for 4-5 children (8yr old plus) where each child will have the opportunity to prepare, rehearse and record a known song to add their individual talent to. The completed work will be transferred to a USB stick for each child to take home. Minimum of 4 participants. Parents welcome to sit in or leave their children with us. Price and more info on www.universalrecords.co.nz or Swamp Studio 09 434 4414.

Marsden Bay Holiday Camp - Sun 17th July 2pm - Fri 22nd July 10am, \$160 per child, \$300 for two, \$370 for three in same family, lots of outdoor activities, Secret Agent 007 costume Party. To register or for further information contact Helena Lamason 09 4447456 or email hlamason@hotmail.com

School Holiday Cricket Program - 18-27 July, 10-3pm for 2 days, \$30 per day 8-13 yrs. Bellahomes Northland Cricket Centre. Ph 438 2400 or www.northcricket.co.nz

And Finally

This week our junior school visited St Francis School as part of their social studies topic on schools. As our students settled into the church one of our new entrants turned to his teacher and asked when God was going to turn up and where would he be sitting. Pretty thoughtful questions for a five year old when you think about it.

Kids, win some house points ! .. Final week ..

.. 50 house points next week for any child who can tell their teacher something about the life or works of Botticelli (information inside the main office door).

.. 50 house points for any child who can tell their teacher something about the saxophone - OR who can draw a saxophone (information inside the main office door).

Regards

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



Comrie Park Kindergarten

“Nga kakano apopo – The seeds of tomorrow”

We will be opening on Monday 11th July. Our session times are 8.30am – 2.45pm, Monday – Thursday and 8.30am – 12.45pm on Fridays. We welcome all enquiries and enrolments, please phone 4335045 or simply call in.

Our teaching team are Anna Thorpe, Paula Shaw, Angie Moselen and support staff Kim Butterfield.

STILL TIME TO RAISE FUNDS - CASH FOR SCHOOLS BOBBY CALF FUND RAISING PROGRAMME

If you haven't yet registered for AFFCO's Cash for Schools bobby calf fund raising programme, or if you've lost your registration form, don't worry - there is still time to get in behind this great programme and raise funds for the school. Last year AFFCO donated more than \$80,000 through Cash for Schools. This year it's putting on extra calf collections to make things easier for farmers during the busy spring period. To find out how you can get involved, phone 0800 722 422 today. Remember the donations are made over and above what AFFCO pays you for your bobby calves but you need to register before the school can benefit.

Annual Matarau School Trivia Night (20 August 2011)

If anyone is able to help with finding sponsorship or prizes for Trivia Night to contact Wendy Francis or Jane Martin , please contact Wendy on 435 4659 or Jane on 433 5967.

MATARAU SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

MIDWINTER MASQUERADE BALL



Party the night away at the 4th Annual
Matarau School Fundraiser

Date: 16th July 2011

Time: 7.30 – 12.30

Band: Kamel

(over 20 years only)

Tickets: School Office/Wild Poppy

\$30 single \$60 double

Light supper will be served

With a licensed cash bar

Complimentary return bus leaving from Kamo 4 Square at 6.30pm, travelling to
Ruatangata hall with pick ups on the way and return.

Bookings essential ph 4353002